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SCIENCE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, PUBLISHING THE
OFFICIAL NOTICES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1908

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NEW YORK SECTION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN¹

IN opening this session of our society, and as an introduction to the subject of this evening's program, I dare take the risk of making a few general remarks.

Our meetings have for object not only to bring before members facts and ideas, but more specially to provoke discussions. I consider a paper without a discussion as an unfinished program, and I sincerely hope that the subject of to-night will lead to a lively exchange of ideas.

For us, if we are worthy of the name of chemists, our God means Truth; and nothing helps so much to correct our views and to arrive at the truth as an honest discussion: "Du choc des idées jaillit la lumière."

I believe that in our meetings we can go beyond the dictates of cold, boresome, uninteresting formality. There is no department of science more closely interwoven with the welfare of humanity than our field of chemistry; indeed many branches of chemistry have a very direct bearing on economics and sociology.

Every speaker who appears before us has the right to treat his subject in accordance with his own sincere convictions. Anybody who speaks about explosives is naturally led to talk of their uses for defensive and aggressive purposes. To deny a speaker this privilege would be as

¹ Delivered at the Chemists' Club in New York City, October 9.